

HOUSE No. 2642

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others relative to the payment of funeral expenses of indigent persons. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan	Shirley Owens-Hicks
Thomas P. Kennedy	John W. Scibak
Stephen J. Buoniconti	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REALISTIC ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR FUNERALS OF INDIGENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in Section 4 of
2 Chapter 225 of the Acts of 1991, is hereby amended by striking
3 out section 10, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section:—
5 Section 10. In case of the decease of a poor and indigent
6 person, the commonwealth shall pay for the expense of the funeral
7 and burial of such person a sum not exceeding two thousand dol-
8 lars; provided, however, that the total expense of the funeral does
9 not exceed three thousand dollars; provided, further, that the cost
10 of such funeral and burial shall include payment for a suitable
11 grave marker, bearing the decedent's name and dates of birth and
12 death, if known; and provided, further, that any payment made by
13 the commonwealth shall be reduced by whatever resources may
14 exist in the estate of said person. The funeral director engaged in
15 conducting the funeral and burial of said deceased person shall
16 perform the services and furnish the materials in connection there-
17 with as follows:- removal of the body; procuring of death certifi-
18 cate and burial permit; embalming and dressing of body;

19 furnishing suitable burial garment; furnishing suitable casket,
20 bearing metal plate with name of deceased engraved thereon; fur-
21 nishing outer case of pine wood; furnishing hearse for trans-
22 porting body of deceased to cemetery; furnishing conveyance for
23 transporting to such cemetery the immediate family of the
24 deceased; procuring of a clergyman, of the religion that the
25 deceased professed, to officiate at the funeral; procuring a burial
26 place for the body of the deceased; opening the grave obtaining
27 the use of internment devices and notwithstanding any general or
28 special law to the contrary, procurement and placement of the
29 aforementioned grave marker.